



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

JIM McDONNELL, SHERIFF



May 4, 2016

Sybil Brand Commission for Institutional Inspections
372 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Commissioners:

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION REPORT RE: CRDF

This report is in response to your March 18, 2016, letter to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors detailing concerns at the Century Regional Detention Facility (CRDF). Three areas of importance were identified during several visits in January 2016;

- A. Environment that creates and exacerbates mental health issues;
- B. Deteriorating physical conditions;
- C. Inadequate medical, dental, and vision care.

A majority of the concerns, specifically medical and mental health, are being addressed in our Settlement Agreement with the Department of Justice (DOJ), dated August 5, 2015, which covers eighty-six provisions¹. Since the Agreement's inception, court appointed DOJ monitors have conducted two inspections. The Sheriff's Department's compliance with the provisions are reported to the Federal court by way of semi-annual reports with a copy provided to the Board of Supervisors. DOJ filed their first report in March 2016 with the second due in November 2016.

The Office of Inspector General (OIG), created by the Board of Supervisors by ordinance in 2014, also plays a significant role in monitoring the Sheriff's

¹ The Agreement can be found here: <https://www.justice.gov/crt/case-document/united-states-v-county-los-angeles-and-los-angeles-county-sheriff-joint-motion>

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Department's operations, conditions in the jail facilities, and the response to inmate and public complaints. The OIG provides quarterly reports to the Board of Supervisors, many of them focusing on jail operations.²

On March 9, 2016, the Commission met with representatives from the Department of Mental Health (DMH) staff. Ms. Susan Ruehl, Keith Markley, M.D., and Tim Belavich, Ph.D., provided information regarding the current CRDF staffing model, as well as a new staffing and treatment model currently being developed to enhance services for our mental health population. Since January 2016, DMH has hired nine additional staff, specifically for CRDF, with seven more currently in backgrounds. The increased staffing will alleviate wait times for mental health treatment.

The Department of Health Services (DHS) is in transition to oversee inmate medical care and has begun providing additional medical providers at all custody facilities to lower the appointment wait time. Dental care at all custody facilities addresses emergent and medically necessary dental care, which does not include aesthetic/cosmetic work. However, due to an increase in the AB 109 population, dentists now include yearly maintenance to ensure we are addressing the long term needs of this population. Prescription eye wear and hearing aides are not part of our health care system; however, with proper medical orders, family members are permitted to provide the item(s) to the inmate during visiting hours.

The items of concern listed on Appendix A of the Commission's letter have been addressed in a corrective action plan, which my staff is available to discuss with the Commission in depth.

We understand your concerns and I am confident that the Sheriff's Department will continue to make great strides with the care and privileges for our inmate population. Should you have any questions, please contact Commander Henry Romero, of my staff, at (213) 893-5926.

Sincerely,

JIM McDONNELL, SHERIFF



KELLY L. HARRINGTON
ASSISTANT SHERIFF

² Office of Inspector General Reports can be found here: <https://oig.lacounty.gov/Reports>